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The China Mail.

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February 18, 1920. Temperature 58.

Rainfall 0.00 inch.

Humidity 89.

February 18, 1921. Temperature 86.

No. 17,878.

三拜禮

號八十月二年十二百九千一英

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1920.

日九廿月二十年未己次歲年八國民華中

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EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE BY ELECTION.

LONDON, February 13th.
In the Ashton-under-Lyne by-election the following was the result:—
Sir Walter Delves (Coalition Unionist) 6,884
Mr. Robinson (Labour) 5,837
Mr. Marshall (Liberal) 3,511
[In the last election the Rt. Hon. Sir Albert Stanley (recently raised to the Peerage) was returned unopposed.]

EGYPTIAN MINISTER RESIGNS.

CAIRO, February 13th.
Sirry Pasha has resigned.

SILVER COINAGE BILL.

LONDON, February 13th.
The Silver Coinage Bill provides for the reduction of the fineness of silver coinage from 825 to 500.

SILVER QUEEN'S SUCCESSOR.

LONDON, February 13th.
Reuter learns that the South African Government has purchased another Vickers-Vimy in Cairo to enable Van Ryneveld to continue the fight to the Cape.

HUNGARY ASKS FOR PLEBISCITE.

PARIS, February 13th.
The Hungarian Delegation has submitted a Note containing observations on the Peace Treaty.

The Note emphasises the necessity of maintaining the integrity of Hungary, and demands taking a plebiscite in the disputed territories and promises to guarantee the rights of the minorities in the Transylvania.

ALLIES' REPLY TO HOLLAND.

LONDON, February 13th.
It is understood that the terms of the Allied reply to the Dutch Note imply at least a constructive invitation to Holland to consider the alternative of sending the ex-Kaiser to some distant part of the Dutch Dominions, as for example, Java.

COAL STRIKE MENACE.

LONDON, February 13th.
There is a considerable conflict of opinion as regards the predicted coal strike. Some of the most influential miners' representatives in Parliament declare that there is no immediate cause for alarm; on the contrary coalowners and miners' leaders in South Wales state that the strike is bound to come, and point out that the Government has been preparing for some time by buying up all available coal and has, consequently, accumulated big reserves.

COURT OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE.

LONDON, February 13th.
The Commission of jurists appointed by the League of Nations to inquire into the organization of the permanent Court of International Justice includes Baron Descamps, the Belgian Minister of State, Signor Fadda, Professor in the Naples University, Mr. Gram, ex-Judge of the Mixed Tribunal in Egypt, Dr. Loder, of the Supreme Court of the Netherlands, Lord Phillimore, Hon. Ellis Rook, member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague, M. Vessitch, the Jugo-Slav Ambassador in Paris, Mr. Sataum Akidruki, the ex-Japanese Ambassador in Vienna.

PEACE TREATY IN AMERICAN SENATE.

WASHINGTON, February 13th.
The Peace Treaty is again before the Senate. The prospects of ratification are brighter than before. It is stated that President Wilson is prepared to give further concessions on the Senate reservations, and Senator Lodge is ready to make a compromise. The latter now suggests that until America's voting power in the League of Nations is equal to any other member, including the Dominions or the Colonies, the United States will not be bound by a decision in which a member and the Dominions cast more than one vote.

A LITTLE STORY.

She was just a little native woman, dressed in the usual style of her class—a large hat, jacket, a pair of loose trousers, well turned up at the bottoms and bare feet. He was not a native of China. He wore a turban, a blue uniform and a pair of uncomfortable looking boots. He was chatting with a comrade when she passed with her fellow workers carrying two baskets well filled with earth. He took no notice of her until she was half way down the hill. Then he ran. He was not a graceful sight. His turban slipped to the back of his head, his heavily-shod feet smote hardly on the macadam. He caught her up. The susceptibility of patrons of "the lounge" were not offended, for she had to toil back with her load. He smiled and she apologised.

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IN ENGLAND NOW.

REVOLUTION IN FASHIONS AND JOURNALS. CHANGES NOTED.

It was, I believe, writes Harold Lake in the Observer James Lane Allen who said that no one could know nature any more unless he had known nature somewhere when he was quite young. And I fancy that holds good of rural life, including the life of the people who inhabit the countryside. It does seem that nobody can be in a position to appreciate the change, the revolution of to-day, who does not cherish memories of an early, intimate knowledge and sharing of that life. You cannot very well appreciate the village of to-day unless at some former time—preferably in youth—you have yourself been a villager.

For the English village is a cautious, secretive place. It will not deliver the truth of its inner life into the keeping of any chance inquirer. If he wants to talk, it will listen to him; if he asks questions, it will answer after a fashion, and when he has passed on his way it will indulge in a kind of collective wink and get on with its business. He will depart with a quantity of information which may be useful or may be utterly misleading; it depends on himself and on his equipment, and mainly on his early knowledge of the subject.

It is necessary to say this for the sake of what follows. For certain days I have been drifting about a bit of England and watching in particular the life of one village, and listening to the talk of some of its people. In this time I, who was once a villager, have perceived certain things. Quite freely I admit that I may be mistaken. This is not my own country, and the people are, to some extent, concerned with matters of which I know little. But there are some matters where error is scarcely possible, and I want to set down here some facts which seem to me to be outstanding in our rural life to-day.

THE VANISHING CESTRUE.

I was tramping along a country lane, and I met a small boy. I confided with all due regret that my clothes do not look as if they were made for the country. They are clothes such as one may wear without causing any comment in London, and I suppose they made some sort of an impression on the boy. Anyhow, he touched his cap as we passed.

The small boy was an anachronism. I express no opinion on the politeness or the pleasantness of his salutation, or on its desirability. The fact remains that he was several years behind the times, that his conduct was not the conduct of the village of to-day. It belonged to these old times when everybody touched his hat to the squire and the parson and that vague body known as "the gentry." And hat touching is not fashionable to-day.

Mind, this is not a portent to be exaggerated. It has nothing in common with that surely rebelliousness which insists on remaining seated during the rendering of the National Anthem. It is just a quiet and, I believe, a legitimate declaration of equality, of the fact that all of us in our various degrees are essential. Of course there may be a touch of the "you be damned" atmosphere about it all, but there is no harm in that, nor anything to put heart into a Bolshevik.

MUTUAL RESPECT.

It is not so much the negation of respect as a demand for mutual respect. In the old days we were inclined to regard the squire and the parson as minor deities and to be humble in their presence. So far as I can see, the villager of to-day does not see why the squire and the parson should not be equally humble in his presence if he is a better man at his job than they are at theirs.

And it is a happy and fortunate thing that very many of "the gentry" thoroughly appreciate that point of view, and they have changed even as the villagers have changed. Very many forces have been compelled or contributed to the change, and most of them are the outcome of the war. That comradeship of all classes of which we saw so much in the army has had enduring effects in the rural districts, even if it is in peril of being forgotten in the towns. For here in the country there was a closer comradeship, of suffering among those who stayed at home. They all knew when each other's hours of darkness came. They shared their sorrows, one with another—and that is not forgotten.

Then there is the matter of the present dejected appearance of the pound note. The importance of that as a social factor has been insufficiently appreciated. What it has meant in the villages has been a considerable and altogether healthy curtailment of certain forms of charity which did very much to keep alive that old atmosphere of servility and

PLANNING A MOTOR HOLIDAY.

[For the China Mail, by BELLA SPRUE.]

One of the greatest charms of motoring is to be "stuck." I don't know why one has wrong ideas about it. One must rehabilitate the harmless automobile accidents. To be "stuck" is a wonderful opportunity for admiring the scenery. Without the providential accident, you might never have noticed that pretty turn of the road, the valley and its stream, the steeple pointed like a wizard's cap, or the shadow of the cloud on the hill. It is only when you are "stuck" that you can appreciate the patience, the devotion, the scientific and technical qualities, even the eloquence of your travelling companion.

The harmless stopping of your automobile reveals to your own self how far your patience can reach, how sweetly tactful you can be. "I certainly am enjoying it on this heap of stones; the rain does not affect me a bit."

And after working like Hercules, buried under the stuck motor-car, what an appetite you develop—even though your looks are not fit for the Hongkong Hotel dining-room. If you burn your finger with the monster or happen to pinch your nose, somebody in the party will be given the chance to display her first-aid talents. If you are never "stuck" when you go motoring, you will never live these odd hours out of the frame of everyday life, these hours that belong to the charming realm of dreams. If motoring is a sport, being "stuck" is the adventure.

That is what I told my friends who were trying to make a programme for Chinese New Year. So the car will be fetched from the Kowloon Repair Works.

BAD STREET LOAFERS.

WE HAVE MANY.

A Chinese was this morning charged before Mr. Smith with the theft, together with several others not in custody, of four flowering plants in pots, the property of a flower stall holder at the New Year bazaar.

The complainant said, 84 plants in pots arrived from Canton by the s.s. "Kunshan" at 2.40 a.m., and he went to the wharf to take delivery. He carried the pots to his stall himself, four at a time. As he was carrying the fourth load, he was accosted by the defendant who accused him of stealing the plants. Witness denied this. Just then about six other men came up and whilst one held witness by the throat, the others carried off the plants. Witness called out "thief" and one of the men said: "If you continue to shout, we will stab you to death." A Chinese constable who was attracted to the spot by witness's cries, came running into the road just then, and the men dropped the plants and ran away. The defendant who did not run, was arrested by the constable with two flower pots by his side.

Sgt. Willis: No, he is a loafer who wanders about the bazaar looking for a chance to steal. This looks like a case of "thief rob thief." Thinking that the complainant had stolen the plants, the defendant attempted to scare him into surrendering them. However the trick did not work. Sentence of 6 weeks' hard labour was passed.

patronage. The lady of the manor and the parson's womenfolk distributed coal and red flannel and took their reward in curseys and touched hats. But, what with rationing and hard times, the distributions have become impossible.

Simultaneously, of course, the improvement in wages has made it possible for the people to buy more of these desirable things for themselves. The new order is good for them, and it is undeniably good for their former benefactors. It is not really healthy for the normal human being to act the part of the god out of the machine. It is not good for people to patronise other people.

The age of patronage is passing, and with its passing the real qualities of the people are becoming more apparent to each other. This is a fairly merciful time for the man who is not up to his job, whether that job be hand-owning on a large scale, or ploughing a field. But a man who really can do his duty in his particular station was never more honestly or clearly appreciated. That is one of the facts which give one hope for rural England to-day.

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IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OFFICE

NOTICE.

CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

THIS Department will be entirely CLOSED on FRIDAY, the 20th February, 1920. It will be open for all purposes till Noon on SATURDAY the 21st February, 1920. Licensed Warehouses will be entirely closed on those dates.

C. W. BECKWITH,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.

Hongkong, February 17, 1920.

BANK HOLIDAYS.

IN accordance with Ordinance No. 5 of 1912, the EXCHANGE BANKS will be CLOSED for the Transaction of Public Business on FRIDAY and SATURDAY, the 20th and 21st inst. Hongkong, February 17, 1920.

NOTICE.

WE have this Day admitted Mr. A. D. BARRETT, as a Partner in our Firm.

J. M. DA ROCHA & CO.
Hongkong, February 17, 1920.

THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC
COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TRANSFER BOOKS of the above named Company will be CLOSED from MONDAY, the 23rd day of February, 1920, to SATURDAY, the 28th day of February, 1920, both days inclusive. Dated this 16th day of February, 1920.

By Order of the Board,
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.,
Agents.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING of the Shareholders in this Corporation will be held at the CITY HALL, Hongkong, on SATURDAY, the 28th day of February, 1920, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Court of Directors together with a statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1919.

The Register of Shares of the Corporation will be CLOSED from MONDAY, the 16th February, to SATURDAY, 28th February, 1920, (both days inclusive), during which period no transfer of shares can be registered.

By Order of the Court of Directors,
N. J. STABB,
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, February 10, 1920.

REPULSE BAY HOTEL.**TO-DAY**

(WEDNESDAY), 18th February,
Tea Dances and Dinner Dances.

FRIDAY, 20th February,
Tea Dances and Dinner Dances.

SATURDAY, 21st February,
Tea Dances and Dinner Dances.

EACH SUNDAY.

ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS during
Tea and afternoon Tea.

WISEMAN, LTD.**TEA DANCE****TO-MORROW**

(THURSDAY), 19th Feb.

Dance Tickets 50 cts. each.

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INTIMATIONS**HOW TO AVOID INFANTILE AILMENTS.**

When there are diseases prevalent in the season, it is the most dangerous to infants and so Great Care must be taken in feeding them with proper food otherwise they would give their mothers a lot of trouble. To avoid the trouble is to feed them with LACTOGEN which resembles human milk. It is easily digested and promotes healthy appetite. It keeps the infants thriving and free from all infantile ailments.



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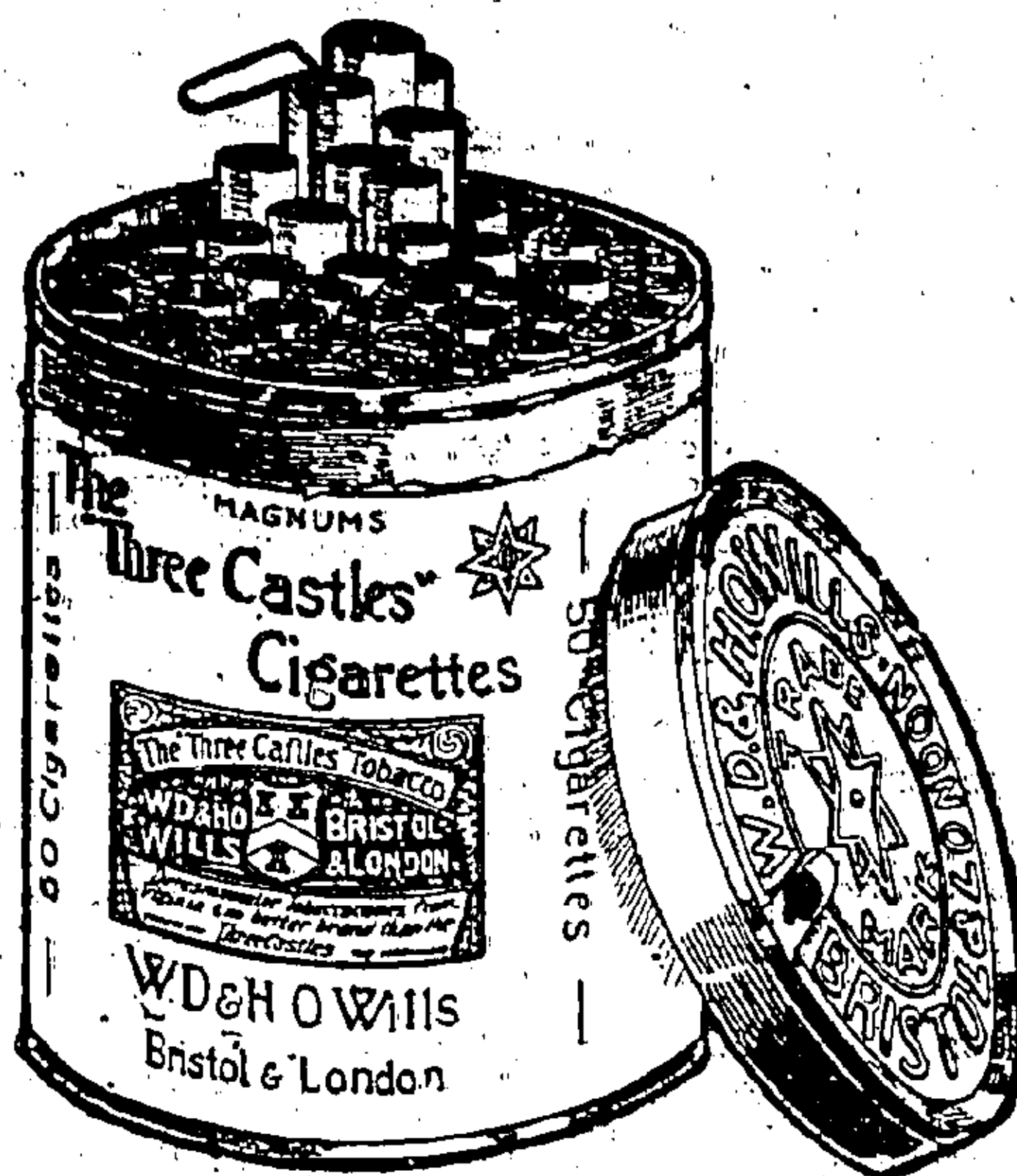
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Telephone No. 481.
Hongkong, March 20, 1914.

THE NEW FRENCH REMEDY
THERAPION No. 1
THERAPION No. 2
THERAPION No. 3

THESE REMEDIES ARE FOR THE TREATMENT OF ALL KINDS OF SKIN DISEASES, SUCH AS ECZEMA, PSORIASIS, URTICARIA, AND ALL OTHERS. THEY ARE GUARANTEED TO CURE AND ARE ABSOLUTELY HARMLESS.

ASAHI BEER

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"THREE CASTLES" CIGARETTES**MAGNUM SIZE****A NEW SHIPMENT HAS JUST ARRIVED.**

This Advertisement is issued by British-American Tobacco Co., (China) Ltd.

INVESTMENT AND SPECULATION.**A LONDON VIEW.**

In the present craze for speculation and the daily outpour of new issues one can well imagine the bewilderment of the real investor who to-day more than ever needs guidance and warning. The mere speculator who gambles for a profit on the rise needs no sympathy. He goes into the market with open eyes; perhaps as a variant of the card-table or the race-course, and takes the chance of the odds—the game is old, and one in which the hawk, as a rule, gets the better of the pigeon. Probably never in the history of modern trade and industry was the net spread by the company promoter so widely and alluringly as it is to-day. Big men and little men alike are opening their mouths wide for money, and are pulling financial strings in industry of every kind. Investors sometimes complain that their brokers give them little help. The complaint may be justified in some cases, yet as a general rule we are certain that every good office takes the greatest trouble in advising clients. The other side of the story is we fear, rather like the lady who demanded 10 per cent. interest and a quick rise as well. Truth to tell—and it is better to be quite frank about these matters—a new kind of broker has come into prominence lately. Frequently he is not a member of any recognized Stock Exchange, and is rather inclined to pose as an issuing house. Such an office is, of course, directly interested in effecting a sale of its goods, and to expect counsels of caution in pushing them is to be more than human. The trouble is that the client often believes such an office to be independent. Is the investor, then, to be warned of every industrial issue and bidden rigidly to buy only Government securities? Far from it; but as certainly no industrial issue should be touched unless one is either capable of gauging its general value or of obtaining advice from some disinterested friend with inner knowledge of the industry. If one has patience, and is not taken in by the promoter's elementary trick of "Come in at once or you will be too late," honest trade advice ought to be available; and if it is not, we go so far as to say, leave the thing rigidly alone.

The brotherhood of the "get-rich-quick" is by no means confined to London; syndicates of not too scrupulous individuals, bent on garnering a rich harvest, are being formed in almost every large trade centre. For some little time promoters have paid close attention to the shipping and motor industries, and have taken full advantage of the cry for expansion of markets and world trade to be won in the absence of Continental competition. A sinister feature in many of these enterprises is their extreme youth, a fact usually hidden in a cloud of words indicative of the general prosperity of the industry. The lucky hits of some marine insurance companies have begotten a crowd of competitors—whose future, to say the least, in the coming days of peace and stable rates, is decidedly problematical. More insidious still is the appeal of new general insurance companies, whose hope of profit, in view of the close quarters of the ground by existing and old-established competitors, must be long deferred. We are far from decrying the chances of a newcomer simply because of his infancy; new blood and new ideas are wanted everywhere; but we strongly recommend the investor to look most carefully at the competition his tempter must inevitably face in the harder days to come.

THE NEW COTTON SPECULATORS.

To-day there is a movement in progress in Lancashire which the investor will do well to watch very closely. For some time the cotton spinning mills have been doing very well, and making large profits. As a rule, these profits are directly derived from the efficiency engendered by individual enterprise, intricate technical knowledge, and close personal supervision. The speculator is now taking a hand in the game, and by absorption purchase, and amalgamation is endeavouring to engineer a series of combines which will be put on the market at a time of exceptional local prosperity with plenty of promise for the immediate future. The transfer of these undertakings from their present owners is being arranged only to put it mildly, at very full values. The capital of the new concerns will tend to carry not only the full value, but heavily realized goodwill and some drafts on the future—and the promoter's profits. Nor should the greater share in trade prosperity which the workpeople mean and ought to have forgotten when the investor is calculating his future percentages.

The profits made by a certain world-wide monopoly are being cleverly used by a certain class of promoters to recommend their own wares. That monopoly is being run by men who understand cotton to its last fibre; the newest temporary owners of many a Lancashire mill saw frame and loom for the first time since the armistice. Similar considerations obtain, though in a lesser degree, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, although the woollen and worsted industry is more varied and less met for aggregation. Still certain individuals are known recently

NEW PACIFIC STEAMERS.

First of the new fast passenger and freight vessels for the trans-Pacific trade out of Puget Sound will be the steamships "Wenatchee," "Sea Grit" and "American Legion" all of which have been launched on the Atlantic coast, and as soon as completed will be brought to Seattle. These vessels will have a speed of 18 knots and are 535 feet in length. They are owned by the United States Emergency Fleet Corporation.

The government has contracted for sixteen of these vessels, nine of which will be of the 535-foot type and seven of the 503-foot class. Keels have been laid and actual construction started on all except two and work on these will be started soon. The "Wenatchee," "Sea Grit" and "American Legion," it is expected, will operate between Puget Sound and the Orient. Work has temporarily suspended for a short time because naval architects of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, advised the builders that some additional changes in cabin arrangements would be made. These vessels were planned originally as transports, but upon signing of the armistice it was decided they would be converted into passenger carriers for commercial services. They will carry 249 first-class and 300 third-class passengers.

The Emergency Fleet Corporation plans to place twelve of the sixteen steel passenger vessels on Pacific routes. The 503-foot ships are to be slower than the other type, which are 32 feet longer. The smaller vessels will make about 14 knots and have passenger accommodations for only 80 persons. It is planned to place these on routes that offer only a small number of passengers but a substantial demand for tonnage. Inasmuch as the architects have not finished their plans for alterations on the larger vessels it is not known how much time will elapse before these craft are placed in commission, but it is expected they will be operating to the Orient by August, 1920.

to have made purchases far beyond their power of personal supervision, and there can be little doubt that before long the public will be asked to pay them for their trouble.

Few demands need more careful scrutiny than those connected with luxury trades. The recent Olympia Motor Show staged cars more than 80 per cent. of which were luxury in the fullest sense of the word. To-day's expenditure on luxuries of this type clearly does not come out of income, and in spite of the payment of premiums and the rush to buy, it is patent to all that the heavy taxation of the future must before long compel economy in every direction.

NOTICES.**G. FALCONER & CO., LTD**

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HEALTH against SICKNESS.

By taking our "ROOSTER BRAND" MAGARONI, PASTE STARS, EGG-NODDLES, VERMICELLI, or other kinds of Soup Stuffs REGULARLY you will have no complaint of any kind of sickness, as all our Products being manufactured from Flour of the Best Quality and under the most Sanitary Method can be easily digested and give you GOOD HEALTH & STRENGTH. Large quantities have been exported to various parts of the World. Your esteemed Orders will receive our prompt and careful attention. Terms moderate, especially for Agencies.

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European Baths and Sanitary Fittings, Hot and Cold Water System throughout. Best of Food and Service.
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TERMS VERY MODERATE
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The China Mail.

"TRUTH, JUSTICE, PUBLIC SERVICE."

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18, 1920.

FINANCIAL.

A lady contributor sent a servant to the China Mail office on Monday morning with a note demanding payment for her contributions "by return" or "per bearer," or words meaning, chop-chop-fa-tee. She addressed it to a man we never trust with money, so missed her chance of getting what she wanted that day. Next day she came herself, and was paid. Womanlike, she explained unnecessarily that she needed the money for China New Year, and "didn't want to draw any from the Bank." Dependent thinks he understands that strange reluctance. It is so hard to get money into the bank that once it is safely there, one hesitates about letting it loose again. It is like the yellow canary, safe in its cage. Or it may be she had had experiences like those of the griffin who had never had a banking account until he came to Hongkong, and who amused everybody by carrying his cheque-book in the breast-pocket of his tunic, about three inches of it flapping over the top. He never quite grasped the principles of banking. When he paid money in, and saw the apparently careless way in which a bored and too busy clerk flung his deposit slip to one side, he always felt like calling the manager to make sure that all was in order; but he was a gentleman at heart, and didn't wish to hurt the feelings of the cashier. The same sensitive scruple prevented him making withdrawals until circumstances compelled, for he felt that the Bank people would think he mistrusted them. When he paid in ten dollars they flung it to a Chinese, and days afterwards he would sneak in and find the receipt in the counterfoil book, lying on the public counter. This impressed him. When he wanted five of it back it was a longer job. He had to show the cheque to a man who looked hard at him, and then turned over the leaves of an enormous ledger. Apparently satisfied, this official would hand him the cheque back, and with it a bronze token, rue took these to the cashier, who directed him by a sideways nod to the Chinese, who sent him back to the cashier. After standing about for twenty minutes, during which he acquired the uneasy conviction that the bank-watchman suspected him of being an armed robber, he would find a torn and dirty five dollar bill thrust at him. All this excellent system is good for theft. It develops that useful disinclination to draw from the bank, and makes nervous people go

to all sorts of trouble to raise the wind in other ways. We know one man who draws cheques but hates presenting them, so he "goes into a store, buys something he doesn't want, and asks the tradesman if he minds cashing this small cheque—"no time to go round to the bank myself," he explains. This is good for trade. Possibly these things, these psychological phenomena, explain why so many people who have current accounts so persistently borrow petty cash from their friends, and forget to repay them. There is one man to whom we have learned to say: "No. I won't lend you a ten-spot, but I'll cash a cheque for you." He seems just as much obliged to us.

[Other articles on Banking and High Finance will appear in this column from time to time.—Ed. C.M.]

ADVERSARIA.

The people are re-calling the exploits of DEFENCES. The Queen Elizabeth, and coming to Hongkong, could be successfully attacked by invisible ships, that would not attempt to enter our harbour. This in connection with the report that it was care for our defences that prompted the refusal to allow an American aviator to fly over Hongkong on Monday. This is only partly true. The real reason would be Red Tape.

Here is an interesting TOTEMS. A London schoolmaster has been fined two guineas for using armorial bearings. The offence consisted of allowing the boys attending his school to wear a badge on their caps. That schoolmaster was very leniently treated. He ought to have been hanged. At such a time as this, with Bolshevism in the air, and the Kaiser still alive, and Churchill trembling for his job, we cannot be too careful.

In connection with a A FIRM Home paper's discussion OFFER of Colonial service wages, we see that numerous (anonymous) civil servants wrote in to describe pay and pensions as "miserably inadequate." One ex-Governor mentions that he was "unable to save a penny." That's too bad. It is more blessed to give than to receive, and the newspaper trade is so good now that the Adversarian has managed to save several pennies. He will swap jobs with any Governor who is anxious to better his position; and he will throw the pension in, at that. This is philanthropy.

Sometimes the dead-PRINCIPLES "ful-suspicion arises OF PRESSMEN that the principles of newspaper men are like the kalends of the Greeks, or like Mrs. Gamp's friend Mrs. Arris. The

Straits papers have been very properly attacking a new Ordinance down there, which gives an official the unprecedented power to close down any newspaper that may criticise him. The Government apologists say, of course, that this would not be done; but the guarantee is not good enough. If under section 3 of the Bill the Colonial Secretary "may in his discretion grant to any person in the Colony a licence to keep and use a press for the printing of documents and may at any time withdraw such licence either permanently or for such period as he thinks fit," that gives him more power than the British Press Law ever contemplated, and a power he would certainly use if he had it. There is right of appeal, but what use is that? The paper would be out of business pending appeal, and probably go bust. Imagine where the China Mail would have been if they could do that sort of thing. However, what we started to point out is the strange lack of principle manifested by the critics of the Bill. The Straits Times, which ought to know better, as it has been a famous fighter of the panjandrums and their ramps, goes on like this—"It would be a simple matter to exclude from the ordinance all newspapers which have been duly registered as such for a period of three years, or if the vernacular press is aimed at, then, all newspapers printed in English and duly registered according to law." The vernacular Press is just as much entitled to the freedom of the Press, and is as much covered by the principle involved, as are the newspapers printed in English. We are shocked by this willingness to concede the principle of one law for the rich and one for the poor, or one law for the respectable papers owned and controlled by the interests and one for the Independents.

Unevenly distributed is the sore spot on civilization. Shanghai is short of coolie labour, and Europe is full of unemployed monarchs. America has too much gold and Europe too little. This list can be extended by anybody who feels that way.

"B.T.O." writes in to call the Adversarian's attention to "a bloomer in an American paper," which defines the three "estates of the realm" as the clergy, the lords (temporal) and the Commons. He thinks (as many have done) that the first estate is the Crown. The American paper is right, and he is wrong. The very phrase, "of the realm," shows that the Crown is not one of them, since it is the realm. But nowadays all that is dead, anyway. The people are the realm and the estates thereof.

There has always been a feeling (a quite understandable feeling) that Germany ought to have been overrun by French soldiers as France was by Germans. It begins now to look as if the French themselves desire this, and are assuming their present stiff attitude with that object. The Germans, through Herr Noske, have said openly that they expect French aggression. Havas comments seem to be leading up to something of the sort.

Talking of the misuse of words, what do you think of the official report by General March, Chief of the U.S.A. General Staff, who declares that, contrary to popular belief, gas is now regarded by responsible American Army officers as one of the most "humane" weapons of war. It sounds like American humor, but is seriously meant. "This conclusion was reached only after a critical study and analysis of official figures." Men who were gassed may contribute their opinions.

It was reported the other day that the Bolsheviks had shot Koltschak. If true, the scriptures are again fulfilled, which say that they who live by the sword shall perish by it. For Koltschak was himself some gun-man. "The shooting of hostages was an established feature of his method of pacification" in Siberia. [Current History.] "All the well-known institutions of the Tsarist regime and the political secret service were established." To weep for Koltschak we shall need a strong onion.

Raffles was a great man. We don't mean Mr. Hornung's gentleman burglar, but the founder of Singapore, Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles. In connection with the recent centenary of Singapore, the Rev. J. A. Bethune Cook has written a very readable little biography of the great man, and had it published by Stockwell of 29, Ludgate Hill. (Five Straits dollars, or 12 shillings). The book has over 200 pages, is well printed and bound, and considering how prices go just now, is well worth the money. The author mentions his indebtedness to the Life by Lady Raffles, but there is a great deal in the book which only he could have written. He has quite evidently written it *con amore*, and has managed to present us with a historical sketch of the man, his time, and his contemporaries, which is as convincing as it is interesting. We have enjoyed reading it, and can recommend it confidently.

"WALLA WALLA" MOTOR boats are built for your service.

ANOTHER BIG JEWEL ROBBERY.

QUEEN'S ROAD MERCHANT LOSES \$20,000.

Another big jewel robbery took place some time between the hours of 11.30 last night and 5.30 this morning on the premises of Messrs. Mohideen and Company, of No. 38 Queen's Road Central, the total loss, as far as can be estimated at the moment, being about \$20,000, no portion of which is covered by insurance. The method by which the robbers originally entered and left the premises is at present a mystery. The robbery is similar to other recent burglaries in that the shop itself was entered by the removal of a wooden partition. Mohideen's is really a portion of the ground floor occupied by Messrs. Chellaram, silk merchants, and is partitioned off from the latter by strong iron bars at the side, but at the back there is only a thin wooden partition covered with stout wire netting. On the other side is a passage leading to the stairs giving access to the upper floors, which are used as offices and the passage the partition is further protected by strong iron bars. At the end of the passage is an iron gate which gives access to the back part of Chellaram's shop and it is summarised that by means of a duplicate key this gate was opened. The position was a most painful one for the players, and it became intolerable when the pathetic climax—when the hero and heroine met in a Base Hospital, the former as a severely wounded soldier and the latter as a nurse was heralded by the iron bars. At this stage Mr. Frawley ordered the curtain to be lowered and came forward, naturally indignant, and received with a sympathetic burst of applause, expressed surprise at the audience's lack of appreciation. The performance was thus abruptly brought to an end about eleven o'clock.—En.

SPECIAL CABLE.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPALITY.

ELECTION RESULTS.

[China Mail Special]

SHANGHAI, Feb. 18.

At the Shanghai Municipal Elections seven British, one American, and one Japanese were elected. Mr. Brooke Smith headed the poll.

FRAWLEY COMPANY.

A COLOMBO INCIDENT.

When the Frawley Company was in Singapore perhaps its least successful production was "For Ever After." It was all drama and local audiences preferred comedy. It was the same in Colombo apparently but there the audience, less polite than the Singapore one, was not slow to express its feelings. "At first," we read, "the audience laughed in the wrong place under the genuine belief that they were expected to do so, but they did not cease laughing when they discovered their error, and they were apparently determined to get their money's worth. The position was a most painful one for the players, and it became intolerable when the pathetic climax—when the hero and heroine met in a Base Hospital, the former as a severely wounded soldier and the latter as a nurse was heralded by the iron bars. At this stage Mr. Frawley ordered the curtain to be lowered and came forward, naturally indignant, and received with a sympathetic burst of applause, expressed surprise at the audience's lack of appreciation. The performance was thus abruptly brought to an end about eleven o'clock.—En.

AMERICAN NEWS.

The American Consulate General has received a navy wireless message indicating that the Secretary of State of the United States, Mr. Robert Lansing, has resigned his office effective Feb. 16 after a correspondence between him and the President in which President Wilson accused the Secretary of usurping Presidential powers by calling a meeting of the cabinet during the President's illness. The correspondence published indicates that on Feb. 7 the President addressed a letter to Mr. Lansing asking him if it was true, as he had been told, that the Secretary had called cabinet meetings during his illness indicating that such an act was unconstitutional since the President only had the right of calling such a meeting. Mr. Lansing replied on the 9th that he had called an informal conference upon inter-departmental matters needing immediate attention but said that it never entered his mind that he was acting unconstitutionally or contrary to the wishes of the President; that there was no intention on his part to assume powers exclusively confined to the President. He also said that if the President thought he had failed in loyalty he was ready to relieve him of his embarrassment by placing his resignation in the President's hands. The President replied on the 11th that as no action could be taken without the President there was no advantage in such a conference. He said that he had a feeling which began at Paris that Mr. Lansing had accepted his direction with increasing reluctance and said that he had been struck by the number of matters in which Mr. Lansing seemed to try to forestall the President's judgment. He therefore reluctantly accepted his offer of resignation. Mr. Lansing replied on the 12th thanking the President for accepting his offer of resignation because it relieved him of responsibility for further action. He said he had been contemplating his resignation since January 1919 since he had been conscious that the President was no longer disposed to accept his advice on matters pertaining to negotiations at Paris and as to international affairs generally; that if he had consulted his personal inclinations he would have resigned but felt that such a step might cause the President embarrassment in carrying forward the great task in which he was then engaged. He said that after his return to the United States he still desired to resign but feared that his resignation might be considered as hostility to the ratification of the treaty. Later the President's illness prevented him from resigning, but recently with the President's returning health he prepared the resignation which he now submitted. He could not allow to pass unchallenged the imputation that he had sought Presidential authority. He believed then and now that the conferences were for the best interests of the President and the republic. President Wilson wrote on the 13th accepting the resignation and hoping that the future would hold for Mr. Lansing successes of the most gratifying sort, and indicating that his best wishes would always follow him and that it would be a matter of gratification to always remember their delightful personal relations.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

To-day's dollar is worth 5s. 10½d.

A tea dance takes place at Wiseman's Cafe to-morrow.

The only case in to-day's return of notifiable disease is one of diphtheria.

The Mothers' Union held its Monthly Meeting at the Helena May Institute yesterday afternoon.

Sister Beatrice left for Home to-day on a short holiday, and hopes to be back about October next.

Consignees of cargo ex s.s. "Tjondani," are reminded that all goods remaining undelivered after to-morrow, will be subject to rent.

A dinner dance is being held at the Repulse Bay Hotel this evening. Tea and dinner dances are also due to take place on Friday and Saturday.

Messrs. Campbell Moore and Company have taken new premises on Pedder Street, next door to Messrs. J. T. Shaw, the outfitters. The new premises will be occupied and open for business in about a week.

"Whoever has planted one tree during his lifetime" the Koran says "has worked for Paradise." What about the Forestry Department planting yesterday ten thousand five hundred trees on the Isle of Dumbell? One hopes, when that island gets to look like paradise on earth, that the launch services will allow us to take pleasant day trips there without obliging us to stay overnight. But perhaps, it is possible, the residents will not be sharing our hope.

DON'T COUGH.

It is absurd to allow a cough to hang on and sap your vitality when Chamberlain's Cough Remedy will cure you. You don't know where a persistent cough will land you. You can't afford to allow your throat and lungs to become diseased when it is such a simple thing to step into a chemist's shop and get a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. For sale by all Chemists and Storekeepers.

KENNEDY TOWN FIRE ENQUIRY.

As was mentioned in a small paragraph in yesterday's China Mail extra, an enquiry into the circumstances attending the recent disastrous fire which broke out in some rice godowns at Kennedy Town, was opened before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy yesterday afternoon.

Mr. E. Davidson appeared for the Insurance Companies concerned, and Mr. M. H. Turner for the South China Commercial Company, in whose godown the fire originated. Mr. M. K. Lo watched the proceedings on behalf of the tenant of No. 27 Praya West, one of the gutted houses.

An amah employed by the tenant of No. 27 said she went out to buy some cigarettes for her master at 10.30 p.m. On her way back to the house at about 11 p.m., she passed the South China Commercial Company's godown, and saw two men standing outside. The door of the godown (No. 26) was open. She paid no particular attention to the occurrence. She went to bed soon after her return home, and it was whilst she was asleep, that the fire alarm was given. She rushed out to investigate and found No. 26 was well alight.

A Chinese watchman next gave evidence and said that on the 3rd inst., he patrolled Nos. 27 to 31. He noticed that both padlocks on the door of the godown situated on the ground floor of No. 26, were unlocked. He did not consider this extraordinary. Several other witnesses gave evidence. One of them, the former principal tenant of the second floor of No. 26, said that at 5 p.m., on the 3rd inst., he saw two men taking four laden hemp bags into the ground floor of No. 26.

The accountant of the South China Commercial Company was then called, and deposed that the last occasion on which the godown was opened, was on the 1st inst. Witness kept the keys of the godown in the office. He had not given permission to any of his *foks* to open the godown on the 3rd. Witness admitted that the shop was responsible for the safety of the property in the godown.

At this stage, Mr. Wood decided to adjourn the enquiry for a couple of days.

Mr. Davidson informed the Court that efforts were now being made to clear the debris from the gutted houses. Counsel said that after that work had been completed, a survey of the place would be made. He thought the work would occupy a week at least.

Further hearing of the enquiry was ultimately fixed for next Tuesday.

A PROMINENT HONGKONG SPORTSMAN.

"TOM" FITT GOES ON LEAVE.

For the next nine months Hongkong will be minus one of its most prominent sportsmen in the person of Crown Sergeant William Pitt (popularly known as "Tom") of the Hongkong Police who goes Home on the s.s. "Nagoya" to-day on a well earned leave, after eight years' continuous service. "Tom" Pitt's achievements in local sports were of such an outstanding character that a brief review of his career is worthy of mention. He held the amateur billiard championship of the Colony (now held by Leung Kam Kwong) for eight years. He was severely handicapped in the match he lost by a damaged thumb, due to injuries received whilst wicket keeping for Craigengower Cricket Club against the fast bowler Omar. On the bowling green "Tom" was equally good, securing a place in the team for the open championship of the Colony, upon two occasions also winning the Police bowls championship three years in succession. He was also in the C.S.C. bowls final and would probably have won had the match been completed. It was abandoned owing to the war. The police shooting championship also went to "Tom" Pitt for eight consecutive years. In boxing, he was one of the most ardent workers and was appointed official time keeper by the Hongkong Boxing Association during the existence of the Police Reserves. He was also one of the conveners of the meeting held to organise the dog shows. In fact there was hardly a branch of sport in which Sergeant Pitt did not take an active and prominent part. The China Mail wishes him a pleasant voyage and a recreative holiday.

HANGED TO-DAY.

Wong Kwong, the jail breaker who was recently convicted for the murder of Warders Speed and Flannan Singh, was hanged in the Victoria Jail at 5 a.m. to-day.

An inquest on the dead body was held by Mr. J. R. Wood and a jury, later in the day, and a verdict of "death due to strangulation, as a result of hanging, in accordance with the requirements of law and justice," was returned.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

JAPANESE CHARGED WITH MANSLAUGHTER.

The Criminal Sessions opened this morning before the Puisne Judge, Mr. Justice Gompertz. Yoshio Nakama pleaded not guilty to an indictment of manslaughter.

The Attorney-General, Hon. Mr. J. H. Kemp, K.C., with Mr. G. H. Wakeman, Crown Solicitor, appeared for the Crown. The prisoner was undefended.

The following jury was called: Messrs. J. Evans, K. F. Lay, A. G. da Silva, C. F. von Offord, H. M. Webb, J. C. Ribeiro and G. A. Carvalho.

Opening the case the Attorney-General said the prisoner was charged with the manslaughter of a man employed on the s.s. "Teikai Maru." The prisoner was a fireman on the ship and the deceased, Mitsui Kubota, was a greaser. On January 24 these two men had a quarrel about some work in connection with a leak in a boiler. They quarrelled for about 20 minutes at breakfast in the mess room and eventually they came to blows. The deceased then went into his cabin and came out again with a knife, with which he apparently threatened the life of the prisoner. The fight began again and the prisoner picked up a poker with which to defend himself. This was taken away from him by the other men and he struggled with the deceased. Prisoner took the knife away, but instead of being satisfied with having disarmed the man, he used it against him and stabbed him to the heart, killing him. The defence which he set up at the Police Station, where he was charged with murder, was that it was an accident. In his statement he admitted that he took the knife away and said that it might have touched the deceased's body. The wound was one and a half to two inches deep, penetrating the heart and it seemed to him, the Attorney-General, that it could hardly have been an accident. One had heard of the people in the old days committing suicide by falling on their swords, but it would be recollected that usually the sword had to be held by an attendant. So in order that the deceased could have got the wound the knife must have been held pretty firmly.

Commenting on the question of self-defence the Attorney-General remarked that it would have to be shown that prisoner did everything he could to avoid continuing the fight and that killing was the only possible way of protecting his own life. Prisoner had not suggested that he killed the man in self-defence. Concluding, the Attorney-General said there were several degrees of manslaughter. Some cases almost amounted to murder, while others were slight and could be met by a short term of imprisonment or even a fine. He did not suggest this case was a very bad one, because apparently it was the deceased who picked up the knife and attacked prisoner with it. Prisoner was discharged.

ROBBERY.

Lau Yau Chai was charged with robbery at Mau Tso Ngam, New Territories, on December 17, when a clock, clothing and various articles of jewellery were stolen. Prisoner pleaded not guilty. The Attorney-General prosecuted. Prisoner was found not guilty. He was discharged.

QUIDNUNC QUESTIONS.

What is the Hongkong Jockey Club going to do with that 15 per cent. commission they deducted from the cash sweeps? It amounts to a tidy sum.

Is the Hongkong Government glad that Mr. Johnstone got safely to Macao and is it sorry it didn't show a little more willingness while he was here?

Do our forts really hold such terrible secrets that it was inadvisable to allow him to give an exhibition flight in case he crossed over one of them?

Wasn't it a rude dog that tried to bite the Marathon runner? Will the promised whipping be a public or private affair?

When shall we get our dinners on Marathon Day? Motorists are asked to keep clear of the course from 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

What will the competitors be fed on before they are fed up?

When are the M.G. gang really going?

Is Hongkong really up-to-date? What about a commercial and public wireless station? How long are we to wait for the Imperial policy in this respect to be made known?

Will dogs have to be muzzled this year?

How are the Volunteer Corps entertainments coming in and are all the old officers and non-coms. rejoining?

Have any of them the "wind up,"

COMPANY MEETING.

HUMPHREYS' ESTATE AND FINANCE CO., LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of the above Company was held at the Hongkong Hotel, 20-day, at noon. Mr. Henry Humphreys presided and there were present the Rev. Father Robert, Mr. J. Scott Harston, Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar, and Mr. J. M. Alves (Directors), Mr. G. Rapp (Secretary), and Messrs. D. E. Clark, J. D. Humphreys, H. Percy Smith, J. A. Jarratt, M. S. Northcote, M. Fernandez and W. Morley.

The Chairman—Gentlemen, it is now past the hour for which this meeting was called and I will ask the Secretary to read the notice convening the meeting.

This being done, the Chairman said—Gentlemen, I propose with your permission to take the report and statement of accounts as read. All our houses have been tenanted throughout the year, and in view of that fact the net profits, amounting as they do to only about 5 per cent. on the capital, are disappointing; at the same time this result affords conclusive evidence that not only has there been no rent profiteering so far as this Company is concerned but that on the contrary our rentals are too low as indeed they are in some cases. I need not allude to the other day in which it stated that notwithstanding that the working man's wages had been reduced he refused to pay any more rent and in fact had been successful in obtaining legislation to prevent his rent being raised. Truth, which by the way, is a strong supporter of the working classes, regarded this condition of affairs as unjust. Not all the owners of houses are rich, some of them are poor and their property is heavily mortgaged. It costs owners as well as non-owners double the amount to live that it formerly did, repairs cost double and mortgage interest is higher. Is it fair under such conditions that rent should arbitrarily remain unaltered? If property owning and profiteering are analogous terms as some people delight in declaring them to be, how is it that more people do not go in for it? The answer is simple and that is that with mortgage interest at nine per cent. or more, no one is going to borrow money to build houses which may, with luck, yield a return of seven or eight per cent., and people with money are not going to be bothered with house building when there are so many more attractive investments for capital with far less trouble. We ourselves are about to build eighteen flats at Kowloon and eighteen above May Road—thanks to an agreement made with the Government whereby we are at liberty to borrow two-thirds of the capital outlay on land and buildings at a reasonable rate of interest. Without such assistance it would have been under the financial conditions which at present exist in this Colony, quite impossible for us to build. On comparing the accounts under review with those of last year you will notice the revenue from rent is \$6,582.57 less. The sale of R.P.K.L. 539 and the houses thereon in 1918 more than account for this falling off. As a set off we have effected a reduction in the amount paid out in the shape of interest of \$10,035.24. House and office furniture which figured in the last balance sheet at \$950 is now office furniture only—all household furniture having been sold during the year. The office furniture consists of one large safe. Legal expenses are heavier than usual caused by expenses in connection with the Company's new articles of association. All our properties have been re-valued in accordance with the wish expressed at the last meeting by Mr. J. M. Alves. You will be pleased to learn that with one or two exceptions the valuations are higher than the figure at which the properties stand in the Company's books. Insurance reserve fund has been transferred to reserve fund as stated in the report as we are no longer underwriting any of our fire risks. We can however, congratulate ourselves on the good luck which has attended this account. Originally \$200,000 was transferred from reserve fund to insurance reserve fund to provide the wherewithal to underwrite a portion of our own fire risks. The difference between that sum and \$245,483.40 viz \$45,483.40 represents the net underwriting profits which have been made. We sold our property at West Point during the year but as completion was not effected the profit made by the sale does not appear in the accounts before you. Since the accounts were printed, Mr. J. M. Alves has been invited to join the Board and his appointment as a director requires your confirmation. I have no further remarks to make but if any shareholder desires to ask any questions I shall be pleased to answer them to the best of my ability, after the accounts have been seconded. I now beg to propose that the report and accounts as submitted be adopted.

Mr. M. S. Northcote—I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts. The Chairman—Gentlemen, the adoption of the report and accounts has been proposed by myself and seconded by Mr. M. S. Northcote. If any shareholder has any questions to ask, now is the time to put them.

HIS MIXED LUCK.

A Chinese was this morning charged before Mr. N. L. Smith with the unlawful possession of a silk waistcoat; and with coming to Hongkong after having been banished for life from British soil by the Singapore authorities in 1912.

Replying to the first charge, the defendant said the waistcoat was his and he was taking it to pledge at a pawnshop to raise money for China New Year festivities. With regard to the other charge, the defendant admitted that he was banished for life but said he understood that applied to Singapore only. He was under the impression that he was not allowed to come to Hongkong for a period of 5 years only.

Serjt. Wills said that there was no evidence against the defendant as to the first charge. The waistcoat fitted the defendant very well, and might in fact be his property. As the defendant had admitted the second charge, the Sergeant said he was prepared to withdraw the first charge.

His Worship agreed, and discharging the defendant on the first charge, sentenced him to 12 months' hard labour on the other. The waistcoat was returned to the defendant.

MONEY.

As usual, just before the China New Year, money is very tight. Chinese dealers have been offering generous bargains for cash, and those Europeans able to command same have been taking profitable openings. Those who depend on the Banks to carry them over were out of it, for the simple reason that the Chinese demand at this time depletes the Banks. We hear of one case in which a Chinese seller was sacrificing twenty per cent. of a large turnover in order to realize in time, and in which the first European who had the offer was unable to make arrangements to take advantage of it.

AGAIN REMANDED.

The alleged cargo boat robbers were again brought before Mr. J. R. Wood this morning.

After Serjt. Aris had produced a medical certificate relating to the third prisoner who is in hospital suffering from the effects of the severe thumping he had received at the hands of the boat people, his Worship remanded the case until Monday morning.

LATEST SHIPPING NEWS.

ARRIVALS.

The s.s. KWEILIN, Capt. M. Dowell, 1,073 tons, arrived yesterday at 4 p.m. from Hongkong with 2,100 tons of coal. The s.s. PORTHOUS, Capt. Laurial, 7,338 tons, arrived yesterday at 6 p.m. from Shanghai with 2 tons of oil, champagne, &c. The s.s. PRODUCER, Capt. E. Wisnes, 743 tons, arrived yesterday at 2.38 p.m. from Wuhan. The s.s. KAMETI MARU, Capt. K. Matsuo, 1,102 tons, arrived yesterday at 11 a.m. from Milke with 2,200 tons of coal.

The Chairman—Gentlemen, there being no questions, I will now put the motion to the meeting. Those in favour?—Those against? Thank you gentlemen, the motion is passed unanimously.

The Chairman—The next business before the meeting, gentlemen, is the re-election to the Board of Directors of the Rev. Father Robert, Mr. W. L. Pattenden, Mr. J. Scott Harston, Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar and the confirmation of the election to the Board of Mr. J. M. Alves, which I now beg to propose.

Mr. H. Percy Smith: I have much pleasure in seconding the re-election to the Board of Directors of the Rev. Father Robert, Mr. J. Scott Harston, Mr. W. L. Pattenden and Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar, and the confirmation of the appointment to the Board of Mr. J. M. Alves.

The Chairman—Gentlemen, you have heard the resolution proposed by myself and seconded by Mr. H. Percy Smith. Those in favour?—Those against? The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. D. E. Clark—Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in proposing the re-election of Mr. H. Percy Smith, F.C.A., and Mr. C. Bernard Brown, A.C.A., as auditors to the Company for the current year, at a remuneration of \$200 each.

Mr. W. Morley—I have much pleasure in seconding. The Chairman—Gentlemen, it has been proposed by Mr. D. E. Clark, and seconded by Mr. W. Morley, that Mr. H. Percy Smith, F.C.A., and Mr. C. Bernard Brown, A.C.A., be re-elected auditors to the Company for the ensuing year at a remuneration of \$200 each. Those in favour?—Those against? Carried unanimously. That is all the business gentlemen. Divided warrants can be had on application to the offices of the Company and I thank you for your attendance.

COLONIAL SERVICE.

THE SWEATING OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

UNDERPAID SERVICE.

The Morning Post of December 19 says: The discovery this week in a London poor house of a gentleman who had just vacated, through serious illness, a high post in the Colonial Service is a shocking fact, and not a fact to be proclaimed were it not for the hope that publication of it will stir Parliament to deal promptly with the miserable conditions under which a most loyal and valuable body of public servants work.

Of the case of this unfortunate gentleman the briefest possible mention will be given. He had devoted 24 years of his life to the service of the Empire in one of its tropical dependencies; had risen to a position of great responsibility, for which he was paid at the rate of £500 per year. His health broke down completely with a most painful disease, due to the conditions of service in malarial swamps and jungles. The sick leave allowed to him expired, and he was put on half-pay, i.e., £250 a year. He had a wife and child, and their maintenance absorbed almost all that certainly did not leave enough to pay for him in a hospital with surgical and nursing attendance.

Though a servant of the Colonial Office doing the work of an officer and of a Judge he had no right of treatment in a military hospital. He had to take refuge in a poor-house infirmary. His comrades are now moving to rescue him from this, and it is probable that his individual case will be relieved. But what of the system which makes such scandal possible, which forced a Colonial Governor the other day to notify officially that, in view of the small salaries of some of his officers, and the cost of living, if they sought relief in bankruptcy they were not to be punished.

THE GLORIOUS COLONIAL SERVICE.

The Colonial Service is one of the glories of our Empire. The men who at the outposts keep order, administer justice, and guide the backward subject races towards a more civilised life are, and have been for generations, among the most useful and the most devoted of our public servants. Their responsibilities are very great. Their record is an almost stainless one.

When at the Peace Conference, the destiny of any district rescued from the Germans or the Turks came under discussion, to put it under British rule was generally the first suggestion. Foreign observers agreed without hesitation that our Colonial administrators were honest, just, and capable. Let us see how these men whose duties are so great, whose conditions of life are so arduous, fare on the pay list.

The bulk of the administrative work in the Crown Colonies and the Dependencies falls on the shoulders of a Constabulary Service which in effect is a military service, with various judicial and administrative duties added to the soldiers' work. To enter this service a young man must have a University degree or some special scientific attainment, or have a commission in the Regular Army, the Territorials, or the Special Reserve. He usually puts in a period of training at a R.I.C. depot in Ireland, and then goes out to a Colony with £250 a year salary. On duty he has quarters provided, but no rations or service. Beginning with £250 a year, he progresses by annual increments of £15 a year up to £400 a year. Then after ten years' service, if he has qualified for a high grade, he progresses by £20 a year up to £500 a year. This is the limit in the average man's case.

In pension rights if he breaks down before ten years he gets nothing; if after ten years he breaks down and is unfit for further service, he is entitled to a pension equal to one-fortieth of his salary for every year of service i.e., retiring after ten years he gets £100 per year. If he dies in harness his widow and children are not entitled to anything.

War bonuses and allowances have been given in practically every branch of the public service. For the Colonial Service these have been confined to an allowance of £50 a year for unmarried and £100 a year for married officials—this allowance not to count for pension rights.

It is easy to see that the Bankruptcy Court or the Poor House looms ahead of any Colonial Service official who dares to marry under these conditions and has not the best of luck as regards health. He must live, as a rule, in a black man's climate; he must try to keep up a white man's dignity; he is faced with the necessity of frequent changes of post. Before the war his position was desperate. Now, with practically all white men necessities increased in price by 300 per cent., it is hopeless.

To illustrate with a particular instance: A Colonial Office official just retired as medically unfit for further service after 20 years of work in Africa, during which he was unable to save anything, and had to practise always penurious economy, goes out now with a pension of £200 a year. In his last post he was administering

CORRESPONDENCE.

ONE RAISE BREEDS MORE.

[To the Editor of the "China Mail."]

Sir,—I have been in a vile temper since yesterday, and it is all due to "Father" Robert. I am a resident in a boarding house in town, and yesterday the good lady who presides over the establishment informed me that she was raising my boarding fees from March 1. The reason for this action was that she had received a letter, which she showed me, from Messrs. Linstead & Davis, agents for Mr. Robert's firm, that from March 1 the rent of the house she hired would be \$200 per month instead of \$150—and she would also have to pay the taxes, which amount to the modest sum of \$24.

That means the rent of her house was raised by \$74 in one fell swoop. For nine years that lady had been paying \$150 and the house is now, naturally, in a worse condition than it was in 1910. During the war her rent was not raised and she paid the war tax imposed by the Government willingly. That tax has of course now been repealed.

Can "Father" Robert give any sound reason for raising the rent of the house by \$74 at the present time? His action can only be read as a direct challenge to Governor Stubbs. The sooner the Governor appoints the Fair Rents Tribunal the better. It seems a shame.—Yours faithfully,

PETER PIPER.

Hongkong, Feb. 17.

WHAT WILLIE'S WORTH.

[To the Editor of the "China Mail."]

Reuter has just informed us that Little Willie places his own value at 900 German war criminals. The process of self valuation is no doubt common to all human beings and nearly all are inclined to err in their estimates of their own value. This little failing, though we would not describe it as a really conscientious "weighing up" of ourselves thus—is equally evident in communities. For instance we know of two villages in England which are perpetually at drawn swords. What is good enough for one is not nearly good enough for the other. The result is that some progress is made. Now in Hongkong we have the same spirit. Your real Hongkongite is not giving anything away to Shanghai or Singapore. No, it's Hongkong the whole time. A very laudable spirit if there was really so much to crow about. We prize here of liberty, we will sing "Britons never shall be slaves" with the best of them. By liberty we mean the rights of citizenship with all its privileges and responsibilities. Make a proper valuation of these and what is found? We pay taxes and are represented by whom? A gentleman elected by the Chamber of Commerce, another by the Justices of the Peace and by the head of the time being of the "princely house."

The American colonists settled the question of paying taxes without a voice in the spending of the revenue a long time ago. In Hongkong we are doomed to endure it for many years to come. Then let us get down to the city itself. How does it bear a real valuation? Is it sanitary and well built? Just call to mind the rookeries of the Chinese quarter. There are narrow lanes bounded by high buildings which almost completely shut off the light. They were condemned long ago, particularly by the expert who came here to study the cerebro spinal fever outbreak. Then there was talk of rebuilding some of the worst parts. What has been done? Just run your mind through Hongkong's virtues in this way. The result may surprise you. Imagine yourself house hunting, or trying to make ends meet with rents on the rise.—Yours, etc.,

FED UP.

50,000 square miles of territory, and had responsibilities exceeding those of a general officer in the army. If he had done the same amount of service in the army his retiring pension would be at least £480; and to his £200 the 30 per cent. bonus to meet increased cost of living "does not apply." A man completely broken in health by practically continuous active service in a tropical climate, who has family responsibilities, and who has no claim to free medical or hospital treatment, will find £200 a year a "frail bulwark against the poor house infirmity."

One may be reasonably confident that with men like Lord Milner and Colonel Aylmer at the Colonial Office there is no need to argue to convert them. They cannot sympathise with such scandalous sweating. But lest there should be Treasury opposition to fair play for the Colonial Service, Parliament, before rising, should warrant an immediate relief to these invaluable servants of the Empire.

"WALLA WALLA" boots are new and fast. Get them at Blatz Place.

TO-DAY'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

NOTICE.

CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

ON FRIDAY, the 20th instant, all Departments will be CLOSED. On SATURDAY, the 21st instant, all Departments will be open for business from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.
Hongkong, February 18, 1920.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction

(For Account of the Concerned),

ON

WEDNESDAY,
February 25, 1920, at 2.30 p.m., at No. 4, Carnarvon Road, Kowloon.

THE

Valuable Household Furniture,

therein contained.

As follows:—

Handsomely carved Cherrywood Hallstand, Cabinets, Desk, Chairs, &c., large Chesterfield Sofa and Arm-chairs, carpets and rugs, curtains, &c., Fumed Teak Dining Room Furniture, Electrolier and Kettle, Tumbler and Plated Ware, Stained Teak Bed Room Suite good as new, large and small Teakwood Bedsteads made by Powell, Camphorwood Wardrobes, Chest-of-drawers, &c., Pantry and Kitchen Utensils.

Also

Piano by Collard & Collard practically new, Victrola and Records, Electric Lights and Fan, Curtain Poles, &c.

(Full Particulars from Catalogue). On view day of sale.

Terms:—Cash.

HUGHES & HOUGH,

Auctioneers.

Hongkong, February 18, 1920.

(FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED),

ON

SATURDAY,

February 23, 1920, at 10.30 a.m., at their Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Voeux Road, Corner of

Ice House Street.

A Quantity of

SHIPS STORES AND MEDICAL COMFORTS.

Comprising:—

Tinned Beef, Mutton, Salmon, Milk, Jam, Marmalade, &c., Preserved Vegetables, Peas, Beans, &c., Cocoa, Pickles, Sauces, Extracts of Beef, Mutton, and Chicken, Bengara Food, &c.

Also, &c.

Terms:—Cash.

HUGHES & HOUGH,

Auctioneers.

Hongkong, February 18, 1920.

(FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED),

ON

SATURDAY,

February 24, 1920, at 2.30 p.m., at No. 6 Observatory Villas, Kowloon.

THE

Valuable Household Furniture,

therein contained.

Comprising:—

Hallstand, Blackwood Table and Stands, Arm-chairs and Chesterfield Sofa (Lane Crawford make) good as new, Blackwood Furniture comprising Cabinets, Music Stand, Blackwood Overmantel, &c., &c., Engravings, Water Colours, Oil Paintings, Carvings, &c., Carpets, Rugs and Curtains, Fumed Teak Sideboard, Extension Dining Table and Chairs, Silver Ware Cabinet, Glass and Crockery Ware, and a quantity of good Electro Plate, Massive Brass Bedstead, handsomely carved Cherrywood Bureau, Wardrobes, Toilet Tables, Camphorwood Chest-of-drawers, &c., Enamelled Baths, American Ice Chest, Sewing Machine, &c.

Also

Electric Fittings and Fans, Piano made for the Climate by Collard & Collard, large American Combination Safe, &c., &c., &c.

(Full Particulars from Catalogue). On view from Friday 27th inst. at 3 p.m.

Terms:—Cash.

HUGHES & HOUGH,

Auctioneers.

Hongkong, February 18, 1920.

BEWARE OF COLDS.

CHILDREN are much more likely to contract the contagious diseases when they have colds. Whooping cough, diphtheria, scarlet fever and consumption are diseases that are often contracted when the child has a cold. That is why all medical authorities say beware of colds. For the quick cure of colds you will find nothing better than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It can always be depended upon and is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by all Chemists and Dispensaries.

"WALLA WALLA" boots are new and fast. Get them at Blatz Place.

NOTICES.

"JUST TO HAND"

REGULATION BASKET BALLS

REGULATION VOLLEY BALLS

REGULATION BASE BALLS

FOR OUTDOOR AND INDOOR USE

PUNCH BALLS

ETC.

SPECIAL TERMS

TO

CLUBS, COLLEGES and THE SERVICES

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

NEW

DANCE

RECORDS.

JUST RECEIVED.

THE ANDERSON MUSIC COY. LTD.

(THE COLUMBIA SHOP)

16, DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL.

TEL 1332.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.

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DISTRIBUTORS FOR:

COLE, DODGE AND OLDSMOBILE CARS, FEDERAL TRUCKS-FISK TYRES, HARLEY-DAVIDSON MOTORCYCLES, ARROW, BRENNAN, JACOBSEN, METZ, RED WING, ROBERTS, & VENN-SEVERIN MARINE ENGINES. We stock Spare Parts also carry a complete line of Auto-Accories and Motorboat Fittings.

MOTOR CAR STORAGE

AND

Repairs of all descriptions under European supervision. Re-painting a specialty.

INQUIRIES AND INSPECTION INVITED.

Call at our Motor Garage No. 7 Russell Street OR Phone 659.

NOTICE.

We have just received fresh stocks of all CUTEX preparations. CUTEX is absolutely the last thing in manure. Try it. Peppermint Tooth Paste, the scientific new departure in Dental Preparations. Prices lowered by high exchange.

COLONIAL DISPENSARY.

14, Queen's Road Central. Telephone No. 1877.

TANSAN

"Choice of all Choice Mineral Waters"

Do you know



That TWO HUNDRED AND ONE of the most eminent physicians in America petitioned Congress a few years ago to admit Tansan free of Custom's charges?

That Tansan has carried off the HIGHEST AWARDS at every Exhibition where it has been shown in competition with most of the best known waters in the world?

That Tansan will counteract the injurious effects of bad whisky?

That the Tansan Spring is open to inspection to any one desirous of seeing this remarkable water issuing from its source?

For particulars apply to

SOLE AGENTS:—

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WINE MERCHANTS,

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JOINT SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD. AND THE CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

HONGKONG-CANTON LINE.

Sailings:—To Canton daily at 8 a.m. (Sundays excepted) and 10 p.m.
From Canton daily at 8 a.m. (Sundays excepted) and 6 p.m.

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HONGKONG-MACAO LINE.

SAILINGS:—
To Macao daily at 8 a.m. (Sundays at 9 p.m.)
From Macao daily 2 p.m. (Sundays at 4 p.m.)Police Permits to leave the Colony are not required.
Further information may be obtained at the Company's Office, Hotel Mansions, or from Messrs. T. W. Cook & Son, Booking Agents, Hongkong.

DODWELL & COMPANY, LTD.

STEAMSHIP SERVICES.

Regular Sailings to NEW YORK via Panama Canal.

S.S. "MUNCASTER CASTLE"

Sailing on or about March 23rd.

LLOYD TRIESTINO

S.S. "PILSNA"

BRINDISI, VENICE & TRIESTE
Sailing about end of March.NANYO YUSEN KAISHA, Ltd.
(SOUTH SEA MAIL S. S. CO.)

Regular Services between

JAPAN, HONGKONG & JAVA

FOR JAPAN.

S.S. "HOKUTO MARU"

Sailing on or about 22nd February.

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OCEAN TRANSPORT Co., Ltd.
(TAIYO KAIUN KAISHA.)Steamship Services Trans-Pacific.
Also to Australia, Europe, etc.

NATAL LINE OF STEAMERS

TAKING Cargo on through Bills of Lading to SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS with transshipment at CALCUTTA in conjunction with the INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD. AND APCAR LINES.

For Freight or Passage on any of the above Lines apply to:
DODWELL & CO., LTD., Agents.IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTS
BEST TERMS COMPLETE STOCK.

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LONDON & ANTWERP—Monthly direct service via Singapore and Port Said.

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CANADA MARU—Wednesday, 3rd March.

BOMBAY & COLOMBO—Regular fortnightly service via S'pore.

INDUS MARU—End of February.

SAIGON, BANGKOK, & SINGAPORE—Regular Monthly service.

SYDNEY & MELBOURNE—Monthly service taking cargo to New Zealand and Pacific Islands.

MADRAS MARU—Sunday, 22nd February.

VICTORIA & VANCOUVER—Tacoma via Manila, Keelung, Shanghai, Nagasaki, Moji, Kobe, Yokkaichi & Yokohama.

AFRICA MARU—Wednesday, 25th February.

ARABIA MARU—Tuesday, 9th April.

KEELUNG via SWATOW & AMOY—These steamers have excellent accommodation for 1st and 2nd class saloon passengers and will arrive at and depart from the O.S.K. wharf near the H. about Office.

KAIJO MARU—Sunday, 22nd February.

TAKAO via SWATOW and AMOY.

BOSEU MARU—Thursday, 26th February.

JAPAN PORTS—Moji, Kobe, Yokkaichi, Yokohama.

For sailing dates and further particulars please apply to—

Y. YASUDA, Manager. No. 1, Queen's Building.
Tel. No. 744 and 745.

THE KWONG HIP LUNG CO., LTD.

ENGINEERS and SHIPBUILDERS, BOILER-MAKERS, BRASS and IRON FOUNDERS. All work done in this establishment is guaranteed. We have over thirty years' experience. We own two slipways and can accommodate any craft of 200 feet long.

Town Office: 64, Cross Street, CENTRAL, Hongkong. Telephone No. 459.
Suburban Office: 10, Kowloon, Kowloon. Telephone No. 2.
Estimates furnished on application.

Hongkong, April 1, 1918.

SHIPPING

C. N. C.
CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

FOR SHANGHAI SINGAPORE Feb. 19, at Noon
MANILA TAIPEI Feb. 19, at 4 p.m.
SWATOW & BANGKOK LUCHOW Feb. 24, at 9 a.m.
AMOY, SHANGHAI & PU-KOW JOHORE Feb. 24, at 4 p.m.

SHANGHAI LINE—PASSENGERS, MAIL and CARGO. Excellent Saloon accommodation amidships. Electric Light and Fans in Saloon and State-rooms. Regular schedule service between Canton, Hongkong, Shanghai (thrice weekly) and Tientsin (weekly), taking cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Yangtze and Northern China Ports. Passengers are landed in Shanghai, avoiding the inconvenience of transshipment at Wusung.

BANGKOK LINE—Weekly service to and from Bangkok via Swatow. For Freight or Passage apply to—

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Telephone No. 145

AGENTS.



Operating the following U.S. Shipping Board Steamers.

For SEATTLE, TACOMA, VICTORIA, VANCOUVER.

"CROSSKEYS" About February 23.
"WHEATLAND" About February 27.
"ENDICOTT" About March 19.

For PORTLAND direct.

"MONTAGUE" About February 21.
"ABERCOR" About March 5.
Through Bills of Lading issued to Overland Conveyance Points.

FOR FREIGHT AND PARTICULARS APPLY TO:

THE ADMIRAL LINE,

Telephones 2477 & 2478. Fifth Floor, Hotel Mansions.

FOR NEW YORK & BOSTON.

THE U. S. SHIPPING BOARD.

S.S. "CAPE MAY"

MIDDLE FEBRUARY.

Via PANAMA.

S.S. "SAGAPORACK"

SECOND HALF FEBRUARY.

Via PANAMA.

S.S. "HATCHIE"

MIDDLE MARCH.

Via PANAMA.

S.S. "WESTERN CROSS"

EARLY APRIL.

Via PANAMA.

For freight, space and particulars apply to—

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Telephones 2477 & 2478. AGENTS. 5th Floor, HOTEL MANSIONS.

FOR NEW ORLEANS.

THE U. S. SHIPPING BOARD

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ABOUT MIDDLE MARCH, 1920.

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SAN FRANCISCO LINE.

SHANGHAI, INLAND SEA, JAPAN and HONOLULU.

FAST and LUXURIOUS MAIL STEAMERS.

Sailings from Hongkong—Subject to change without notice.

Steamers	Tons	Leave Hongkong
KOREA MARU	20,000	23rd February.
TENYO MARU	22,000	11th March.
SHINYO MARU	17,800	1st April.
SIBERIA MARU	20,000	1st April (from Yokohama).
*PERSIA MARU	9,000	19th April

§ From Kobe. *Omitting call at Shanghai.

SOUTH AMERICAN LINE.

HONGKONG to VALPARAISO via JAPAN, HONOLULU, SAN FRANCISCO, SAN PEDRO, SALINO CRUZ, BAILEA, QALAO, AEGIA and IQUIQUE.

Thence by Trans-Andean Route to Buenos Aires.

Steamers	Tons	Leave Hongkong
ANYO MARU	18,000	March 13th.
SHIYO MARU	14,000	May 12th.
KIYO MARU	17,800	July 12th.

Tickets are interchangeable with the Canadian Pacific Ocean Services, Ltd. and the Pacific Mail Steamship Co.

Passengers may travel by rail between ports of call in Japan free of charge.

FREIGHT SERVICE

Direct Freight Service to CUBA and NEW ORLEANS, via San Francisco, Balboa and the Panama Canal.

Steamers: KOTO MARU Last Half February
CHOYO MARU April or May.For all information as to rates, freight space, sailings, etc., apply to—
T. DAIGO, MANAGER, King's Building.
Telephone 2276 and 2278.

SHIPPING

C. P. O. S.

SAILINGS

HONGKONG to VANCOUVER

(via Shanghai, Nagasaki (*Moji) Kobe & Yokohama)

FROM HONGKONG TO VANCOUVER

STEAMERS	FROM HONGKONG	TO VANCOUVER
Empress of Russia	Mar. 11	Mar. 29
*Monteagle	Mar. 23	April 17
Empress of Japan	Mar. 28	April 19
Empress of Asia	April 8	April 28
Empress of Russia	May 6	May 24
Empress of Japan	May 26	June 16
Empress of Asia	June 3	June 21
*Monteagle	June 4	June 28
Empress of Russia	July 1	July 19
Empress of Japan	July 20	Aug. 10
Empress of Asia	July 29	Aug. 18
*Monteagle	Aug. 5	Aug. 29
Empress of Russia	Aug. 26	Sept. 13
Empress of Japan	Sept. 14	Oct. 5
Empress of Asia	Sept. 23	Oct. 11

Passage Fare Hongkong to United Kingdom.

EMPERESS OF RUSSIA	EMPERESS OF JAPAN
16,800 Tons Reg. Gold	6,000 Tons Reg. Gold
Excesses or Asia \$583.00	Excesses or Asia \$485.00
16,800 Tons Reg. 8,185 Tons Reg.	

Fares and sailings subject to change without notice.

For Fare and other information please apply to:

HONGKONG OFFICE. Cable address: GACANPAC.

Telephone 152.

CANADIAN PACIFIC OCEAN SERVICES.

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.

HONGKONG & SOUTH CHINA COAST PORT SERVICE.

REGULAR SERVICE of Fast, High Class Coast Steamers having good Accommodation for First Class Passengers, Electric Light and Fans in State-rooms and Saloons. Excellent Cuisine.

SWATOW, AMOY & FOOCHEW

AND RETURN.

(Occupying 8 to 10 Days)

STEAMERS	CAPTAIN	LEAVING
HAICHONG	Capt. W. C. Passmore	TUESDAY, 24th February at 1 p.m.
HAICHING	Capt. A. H. Stewart	FRIDAY, 27th February at 1 p.m.

AMOY.

Arrivals and Departures from the Company's Wharf (near Blake Pier).

For FREIGHT and PASSAGE apply to—

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co.

General Managers.

CHINA MAIL S.S. CO., LTD.

FREIGHT AND PASSENGERS.

"NANKING" (15,000 tons) "NILE" (11,000 tons) "CHINA" (10,200 tons)

SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG FOR

SAN FRANCISCO

Via SHANGHAI, JAPAN PORTS and HONOLULU.

"NANKING" "NILE" "CHINA"

March 23rd, 1920. March 2nd, 1920.

AN UNPARALLELED HIGH CLASS PASSENGER SERVICE.

O. E. BITTER, Freight and Passenger Agent.

Prince's Buildings, 105 Horse Street. Tel. 1264.

AMERICAN & ORIENTAL LINE.

FOR BOSTON & NEW YORK.

S.S. "LUCERIO" via Suez. March 25.

ORIENTAL AFRICAN LINE.
INDIAN AFRICAN LINE.

Cargo carried on through Bills of Lading from HONGKONG to BEIRA, DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN (Natal), EAST LONDON, PORT ELIZABETH and CAPE TOWN direct or with transshipment at CALCUTTA and/or COLOMBO.

For particulars apply to—

THE BANK LINE, LTD.

MANAGING AGENTS.

"ELLERMAN" LINE.
(Ellerman & Bucknall Steamship Co., Ltd.)

JAPAN, CHINA AND STRAITS

TO

UNITED KINGDOM & CONTINENT.

FOR PARTICULARS OF SAILINGS SHIPPERS ARE REQUESTED TO APPROACH THE UNDERSIGNED.

For STEAMERS SAILA

LONDON and ROTTERDAM "AWAZI" 18th March.

Subject to change without notice.

THE BANK LINE, LTD.

General Agents.

NEW YORK DIRECT.

JOINT SERVICE OF THE

"BLUE FUNNEL" LINE
(OCEAN S.S. CO., LTD. & CHINA MUTUAL S.S. CO., LTD.)AMERICAN & MANCHURIAN LINE
(ELLERMAN & BUCKNALL S.S. CO., LTD.)

SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

STEAMERS	via Suez	15th February.
"ARISTOS"	via Suez	1st March.
"ANTILLOCHUS"	via Suez	20th March.
"GRADATION HALL"	via Suez	10th April.
"JASIN"	via Suez	

Steamers proceed via Suez Canal or Panama Canal at Owners' option. Subject to change without notice.

For freight and particulars apply to:
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE or THE BANK LINE, LTD., HONGKONG.
HONGKONG & CANTON REIMS & CO., CANTON.

A NEW RAILROAD ACROSS THE ANDES.

(Continued from page 3.)

"The line to the Yungas will offer the traveller the greatest possible contrasts in so relatively short a journey, due to the conformation of the valleys and the great descent that is attained in a run of less than 31 miles, in the course of which the principal mountain ridge, generally covered with snow, is crossed and then reaching the part of the valley where there is a most exuberant vegetation, entirely covering the skirts of the mountain. In its 100th kilometer the railway reaches a level of only 3,509.1 feet above the sea, thus in less than 46 miles a difference in level of 11,433.5 feet is attained."

North America, it seems, is helping to build it."

"The line, the construction of which was initiated with very small resources in 1915, has made good progress recently due to the help of a loan placed by the government of Bolivia in the United States."

"Once the great difficulties of the descent and crossing of the Cordillera are overcome and as soon as a part of the railway is placed in operation which it is expected will be soon, the Bolivian government proposes to extend the line to the head of navigation on the Beni river. Thus in the near future, by means of the line now under construction, the crossing of the Cordillera of the Andes will be accomplished at the highest point reached by a railroad. The Pacific will be connected with the rivers of the Amazon basin, establishing a transcontinental line between the port of Africa on the west coast and the Brazilian port of Para."

"This programme which at the moment seems perhaps rather ambitious must, nevertheless, be considered as within the actual power of the government of Brazil. The distance which has to be traversed is not very great, less than 217 miles, and the greatest of the difficulties are those already surmounted, in part"—The Literary Digest.

"DOWN WITH THE STANDING ARMY."

LORD FISHER'S LATEST.

"If I could be Cromwell I would do away with the Army to-morrow, and have a force like the Boers, managed by the County Councils, and put the expense on the local rates."

Lord Fisher contributes to the January issue of the *London Magazine* an article on "Down with the Standing Army," from which the above is a quotation. "This war led us into having been a conscript nation," he adds. "Conscription is said to have been abolished. Has it? The militarist faction has tasted blood. They have become like man-eating tigers: they will never rest till they get it back. They have eaten already nearly a million of the blossoms of the land."

"The War Office, as its name implies, makes war. The Admiralty is a peace office. The British Navy can compel peace. But in this last miserably conducted war the Navy was ordered by the militarist faction to take a back seat, and in Jellicoe's euphonious language, the Navy was relegated into 'keeping the ring.' Imagine Nelson 'keeping the ring'!"

"Conscription not only paralysed our Navy, it ruined our economic resources, and it paved the way to revolution. Those four million men you took away from the working population and cannon fodder completely upset commercial business and agricultural progress."

"What we have to do is to put an absolute stop to the building of every type of vessel for war purposes that can't get under the water and so get out of the way of the aircraft."

"We have got to build a new fleet just as at the time of the Dreadnought revolution and scrap the present lot just as ruthlessly and instantaneously."

Lord Fisher says he was always being told at the Admiralty that things could not possibly be done. "I was informed that the 'Invincible' could not leave Devonport to attack Von Spee's squadron for two days after the day appointed because of some defect in her boilers; but she went, and I have not heard since of any ill result! Had those two days been lost, Von Spee would have been missed by two days at the Falkland Islands, and many things would have been changed."

COALITION CONDEMNED.

"Had we stuck to the Fleet as our weapon of war," Lord Fisher adds, "those millions of soldiers would have kept up our economic power by working at their trades at home, and we should not now be reduced by taxation to almost a bankrupt condition. Yes, undoubtedly our scheme of Government is wrong, and Coalition Government was the biggest curse ever inflicted on this nation."

"This nation was fooled into Conscription. This nation was fooled into bankruptcy. This nation was fooled into not using her Navy."

SPECIAL OFFER

English made Heavy Brown
Willow Calf Boots.For strength, durability and
comfort these boots cannot
be equalled.

\$18.00 per pair. Usual price \$21.00.

MACKINTOSH

CO., LTD.

Men's Wear Specialists.

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Telephone 29.

SOCIAL GIFTS.

The present writer read the other day of a French satirical comedy in which appears a worthy Englishman who lacks to a comic degree all gift for conversation and all social talent. His role (or rather his "words") consists almost entirely in saying "How do you do?" in different tones. The Englishman at his best is of course a far more social being than strangers take him for. As good manners and as much wit are to be found in England as in any other country, no foreigner seriously doubts it. All the same, the average Englishman is a little too much of an individualist to make ordinary social life in England as entertaining as it ought to be. There are small circles, we suppose, in every country in which social life has been brought to perfection, but too many men and women here go into company for no other reason than to avoid being alone or "alone together." The ordinary middle-class "party" would no doubt strike a Frenchman as dull, and many of the guests might seem to him to have nothing to interchange but greetings. The conscientious intention which animates the Frenchman of doing his level best to make the entertainment to which he is admitted a success is conspicuous by its absence. Nearly all Englishmen are shy, many are modest, more pretend to be. These things lie, we believe, though of course no foreigner will agree with us, at the root of our social deficiencies. Socially we are not frank; our reserve forbids us to be ourselves. A great number of ordinary Englishmen would seem to have a whimsical wish to appear in company in any character but their own. The whim shows itself in children. A boy will not confess himself devoted to books and ambitious of scholarship unless submitted to a searching cross-examination. He would rather appear the normal boy who looks upon book-learning as a grind. On the other hand, the sporting boy will hardly admit his devotion to the game of his choice, and will sedulously hide his successes in its pursuit. In the same way, when he is grown-up the fortunate man of the world tends to hide his privileged position, to be silent about his advantages. He will not infrequently play the modest man of letters, or talk of some small hobby to listeners to whom he gives to understand that it is his life-interest. Again, the artist plays the man of the world, the rich man talks of money difficulties, the suburban matron plays the woman of fashion, the learned man wants to appear simple and the simple man learned. We have an absurd love of masks, often of a most transparent nature. We use them partly to screen our shyness, partly from a foolish notion that there is something festive about a little playing-acting. The result is that every one is not at his best, every one does not contribute as largely as he should contribute to the interest of the assembly.

But there are worse social foibles than an inclination to pretend, which after all necessitates the talking of some trouble. Among a dozen ordinary English people brought together for social purposes—say in an average country parish—more than eight have any desire to figure in the conversation at all. They are willing to be amused, but they are not going to put themselves out; and three or four of them, if they told the truth, would say that they were conscious through shyness of some sort of vague fear of giving themselves away. They would rather not talk nonsense for fear of looking foolish, nor much serious sense for fear of seeming priggish. They will not reveal their feelings lest they seem sentimental, nor any convictions but the most conventional lest they should make an impression of oddity or of "airs." Because of their very laudable modesty a free field is left too often to some one person who would like to be conspicuous. Occasionally he or she is "the life and soul of the party," but more often, from the point of view of social success, its destruction. The persons determined to shine are apt to prove a disintegrating element in any company. They throw bones of contention and make their audience take sides, or they call some one who cannot take a

joke or some one who ought not to be asked to do so. They would as soon see a wince as a smile so long as all are conscious of their presence. If each of their audience had played his proper part, there would have been sufficient space for their antics, and they could not have taken possession of the stage.

Some time ago it was less unusual than it is now for one person to absorb the conversation with pleasure to himself and others. Anecdote is out of fashion here, but apparently it remains popular in America. Very often lately we have heard the conversation of prominent Americans, from the President downwards, admired for the colour and richness lent to it by witty anecdote and analogy. Perhaps they will revive a fashion in the Old Country. Humorous anecdote has a double value. A hearer in one place qualifies himself to become a speaker in another. Also there is no doubt that each man in a company united by laughter laughs more heartily than any man can laugh alone.

We do not imagine that even in France every ordinary dinner or tea or garden party bears any close relationship to the Paris salon which is the Frenchman's social ideal, which he invented, and of which he is so justly proud. We do, however, imagine that among the Latin races those gifted persons who know how to draw a company together, to banish the self-consciousness and idle contention and reconcile them to each other and themselves, are commoner than they are here. Socially speaking, our rank-and-file could acquire themselves far better than they do if they were better officered. There are hostesses in all circles from the highest to the humblest who make all their guests happy. Have we not all known men and women whose very presence in a house party ensures a pleasant week-end to all their fellow-guests? They make every one feel at ease. Even parochial opponents lay aside their bitterness. The cultured old maid can make some contribution which is worth having to the conversation. All the shy people forget to pretend, and all the suspicious ones are off their guard. They are themselves, and pleased with themselves and pleased with each other. If we think about these delightful people, we shall probably find that they also are not without reserve. They do not perhaps at first sight appear to have a great deal of what is sometimes called "character"; that is, they have no very aggressive characteristics. They are seldom described as very strong "people." They have, as a rule no very "strong" views, no "strong" antipathies or prejudices. But this form of softness is not brought against them, because most of them are women, and when they happen to be men they are too widely and genuinely liked to be criticized at all. What all socially gifted men and women have in common is the dramatic sense, and that is probably more often found on the Continent than in England. They see social life as a play well cast, in which none of the parts is unimportant, and which must be entertaining if every actor has a chance to do his best.

We have often wondered whether in any country in the world it is possible to find an atmosphere more buoyantly happy than is created in England by a crowd of leisured young people. Without social art, we had almost said without social instinct, they possess an unrivalled capacity for corporate happiness which in later life is lost. The fact does not prove that we as a people do not deserve the criticisms of our gifted neighbours, but only that in youth mankind is gay or serious by infection. Where young people consort freely together, as they do here and in America, social life is possibly for a very short time more enjoyed than in countries in which it has become more of a fine art.—Ex.

DON'T RISK PNEUMONIA.

GET rid of every cold as quickly as possible. It is the forerunner of all pulmonary trouble, and pneumonia may develop in a few hours. Take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It is a simple thing to do, but the effect is marvellous. For sale by all Chemists and Dispensaries.

CRITICAL FOOD YEAR.

SCARCITY, AND HIGH PRICES FOR
1920.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

Mr. McCurdy, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Food, at a Labour Conference at Grosvenor House recently, reviewed the history of food control during the past year, and made a statement with regard to the prospects for 1920.

The dominating fact with regard to food prices continues to be the actual world shortage of nearly all essential foodstuffs, he said. This fact is to some extent concealed from the public by reason of the artificial economic conditions in Europe. But viewing the world as a whole there would still be a serious shortage of supplies of most essential food-stuffs in the coming year. The wheat crops in the exporting countries were down; the requirements of the importing countries were up. Experts told him that 1920 would be the most critical year since the war as regards supplies and prices of both butter and cheese. Dairy produce in Australia would be below normal, owing to the great drought; supplies were certain to be shorter and the cost would probably be higher. There was a decrease in the supplies of tea, while consumption had risen considerably. There was no prospect of the world supplies of sugar balancing the demands this year.

SHORTAGE OF MEAT.

As regards meat, there was a surplus at the moment in Britain. We must not be misled by that fact into assuming that our supplies for the year were assured. The home supplies would be about 1,000,000 tons. Assuming that our people eat no more than they did before the war, we should want an extra 360,000 tons from abroad to feed them. We should want 1,100,000 tons of imported meat instead of 730,000. Now all the meat in the world which the meat producing countries could export in 1920 out of the year's production was estimated at about 1,210,000 tons. Add to that stocks of 120,000 tons in hand in New Zealand and Australia held over from past years, owing to the submarine war and shipping difficulties, and we get 1,333,000 tons in all. At our pre-war rate of consumption we should need 1,100,000 tons, and that left for the United States of America and the continent of Europe only 233,000 tons. The United States wanted half that, and that left 110,000 tons in all for the continent of Europe.

Meat supplies of the European countries, apart from Russia, were 3,500,000 tons short, and many of their people were actually starving, so they would see that 110,000 tons was not much to meet demands.

COLD STORAGE SHORTAGE.

There would be, beyond any doubt, a world shortage of meat in 1920—at least three million tons less meat in Europe than our neighbours used to eat before the war. But to-day there was a glut—for the next two or three months more meat would be arriving in the Thames than we would know what to do with. During the last two years of the war we could not ship the meat we had for the army and for our Allies from New Zealand and Australia. It was now coming over. We had not cold storage enough for the whole of it. The Government were releasing all restrictions on consumption. We do not want it to be wasted. I hope you will all help to eat it.

The milk problem was not occasioned by the present level of prices. The fact was that for many years our milk supply had never been adequate to our needs. The Food Controller had decided to issue a new Milk Order. The Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918, prescribed conditions governing the supplies of food and milk to mothers and young children either free or at less than cost price. The second of these conditions limited such supplies to necessary cases. Rightly or wrongly the taint of charity had attached to his limited method of supply, and we had determined to get rid of it. The Order would therefore be amended by substituting for the condition which limited these supplies in necessary cases a power enabling them to be varied whenever, by reason of the retail price of milk in the area of any local authorities it was thought necessary or desirable to issue such supplies.

The Food Controller was testing the recommendations of the recent committee on milk prices. If they were right the price would be reduced. Much depended on whether they had correctly estimated the present yield of milk per cow. Unfortunately the yield had diminished, owing no doubt to the cost of feeding stuffs.

Mr. E. J. Chapman, of Messrs. Linstead and Davis, left to-day by the s.s. "Nagoya" on six months' leave.

"WALLA WALLA" Launches at Hake Pier. Night and day service.

COMPANY REPORT.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The following is the report of the Court of Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, to be presented at the ordinary yearly general meeting of shareholders to be held at the City Hall, Hongkong on Saturday, the 28th February, 1920, at noon.

The Directors have now to submit a general statement of the affairs of the Bank, and balance sheet for the year ending December 31, 1919.

The net profits for that period, including \$3,279,611.43, balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, deducting interest paid and due, and making provision for bad and doubtful accounts and contingencies, amount to \$10,666,473.57.

The Directors recommend the transfer of \$2,000,000 from the profit and loss account to credit of the silver reserve fund, which fund will then stand at \$23,000,000.

They also recommend writing off bank premises account the sum of \$1,000,000.

After making these transfers, deducting the interim dividend of £2 5/- per share, paid on 11th August last, viz. £270,000 at 3/6=£1,542,857.14, and remuneration to Directors, there remains for appropriation \$6,093,615.43, out of which the Directors recommend the payment of a final dividend of two pounds and five shillings sterling per share, viz. £270,000, and a bonus of three pounds ten shillings sterling per share, viz. £420,000 amounting in all to \$690,000 which at 4/10, the rate of the day, will absorb \$2,830,769.23.

The balance of \$3,262,847.20 to be carried to new profit and loss account.

The sterling equivalents of the various accounts are shown at 4/10, the rate ruling on the last day of the year.

Directors.—The Honourable Mr. E. V. D. Parr has been elected chairman for the year 1920, and Mr. A. H. Compton deputy chairman.

The Honourable Mr. David Landale and Mr. G. T. M. Edkins having resigned their seats on leaving the Colony, the Honourable Mr. John Johnston and Mr. Ross Thomson were invited to fill the vacancies. Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar was also invited to join the Board. These appointments require confirmation at this meeting.

The Honourable Mr. Stanley H. Dodwell, Mr. W. L. Pattenden and Mr. J. A. Plummer retire in rotation, but being eligible for re-election, offer themselves accordingly.

Auditors.—The accounts have been audited by Mr. F. Maitland and Mr. E. A. M. Williams, who offer themselves for re-election.
J. A. PLUMMER,
Chairman.

Hongkong, February 17, 1920.

ABSTRACT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, ON DECEMBER 31, 1919.

	STERLING EQUIVALENT.	DOLLARS.
Paid-up Capital	3,656,250 0 0	\$ 15,000,000.00
Sterling Reserve Fund	1,500,000 0 0	6,153,846.15
Silver Reserve Fund	5,118,750 0 0	21,000,000.00
Marine Insurance Account	60,937 10 0	250,000.00
NOTES IN CIRCULATION—		
(Authorized and Additional issue against Securities and Coin deposited with the Crown Agents for the Colonies, their Trustees, and the Hongkong Government.)		
Current Accounts	7,438,495 11 10	30,516,905.00
Fixed Deposits	56,558,921 12 4	232,036,601.51
BILLS PAYABLE—		
(Including Call Loans and Short Sight Drawings on London Office and Drafts on London Bankers)	1,081,914 17 3	4,438,625.07
Acceptances on Account of Constituents	511,346 4 11	2,097,830.75
Profit and loss Account	2,216,569 0 0	9,093,616.43
	£103,781,452 7 7	\$425,770,061.05

Liability on Bills of Exchange re-discounted, £16,250,632.12 of which £14,512,177.12 have since run off.

	STERLING EQUIVALENT	DOLLARS
Cash (including \$15,500,000 Coin lodged with the Hongkong Government against authorised and/or excess note circulation)	£16,954,180 17 0	\$69,555,613.75
Bullion in hand and in transit	3,042,463 16 8	12,481,902.90
British Government, Indian, Colonial and other Securities	4,693,561 1 0	19,255,635.08
Sterling Reserve Fund Investments, viz.:—		
£1,578,947 7s. 5d. 5% War Loan 1929/1947 at 95	1,500,000 0 0	6,153,846.15
Bills Discounted, Loans and Credits	37,704,975 0 11	154,687,077.11
Bills Receivable	37,681,280 1 10	154,589,867.05
Liabilities of Constituents for acceptances, per contra	511,346 4 11	2,097,830.75
Bank Premises	1,693,645 5 3	6,948,288.26
	£103,781,452 7 7	\$425,770,061.05

GENERAL PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, DECEMBER 31, 1919.

	STERLING EQUIVALENT.	DOLLARS.
To Interim Dividend—		
Paid on August 11, 1919, \$25/- per Share on 120,000 Shares=	\$270,000	1,542,857.14
To Final Dividend—		
£25/- per Share on 120,000 Shares=	\$1,107,692.31	
Bonus of £3 10s. per Share on 120,000 Shares=	1,723,076.92	
To Transfer to Silver Reserve Fund	2,000,000.00	
To Transfer to Bank Premises Account	1,000,000.00	
To Balance forward to next year	3,262,847.20	9,093,616.43
	\$10,666,473.57	
By Balance of Undivided Profits, Dec. 31, 1918	\$3,279,611.43	
By Amount of Net Profits for the Year ending Dec. 31, 1919, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts and contingencies, deducting all Expenses and Interest paid and due	7,386,862.09	10,666,473.57
* Interim Dividend £270,000 paid at 3/6 per contra		10,666,473.57
	\$24,933,881 10 1	

	STERLING EQUIVALENT.	DOLLARS.
To Balance, (Invested in 5% War Loan 1920/1947)	\$1,500,000:0:0	1919
	\$1,500,000:0:0	\$1,500,000:0:0

NOTICES.

DAIRY FARM NEWS.

FISH FISH
FINNAN HADDOCK
FILLET HADDOCK
KIPPERS

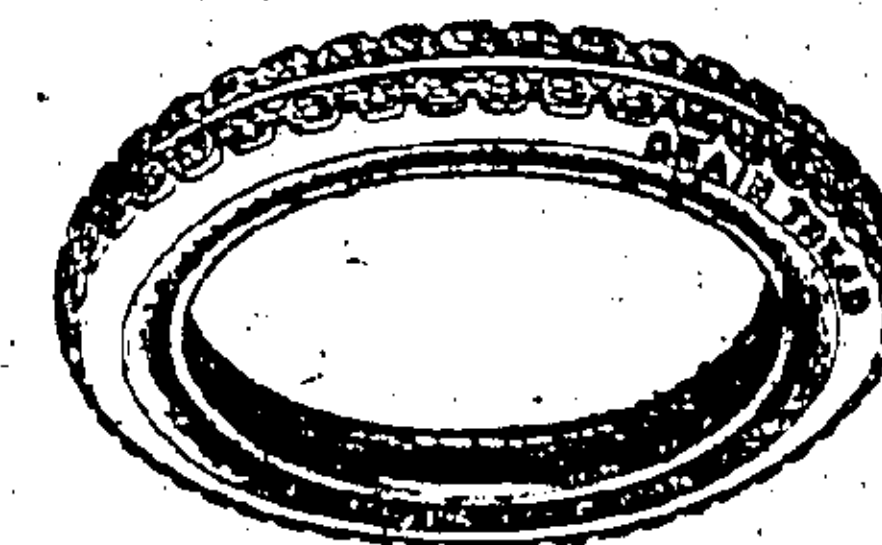
AND

SALT SIBERIAN SALMON

NEW SHIPMENT JUST RECEIVED.

THE DAIRY FARM ICE & COLD STORAGE CO., LTD.

TYRES



TYRES

TYRES

TYRES

On account of recent large arrivals at favourable exchange we are able to offer the well-known U. S. CHAIN TYRES at great reduced rates from 1st February as follows—

	TYRES	TYRES		TYRES	TYRES
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$		U.S. \$	U.S. \$
28 x 3	22.10	6.15	34 x 4	74.30	12.95
30 x 3	24.25	7.40	35 x 4	80.00	—
30 x 3½	31.50	8.20	35 x 4½	78.50	14.45
31 x 4	49.70	9.75	36 x 4½	76.60	18.95
32 x 3½	36.40	9.45	765 x 105	47.35	—
32 x 4	50.60	11.10	815 x 105	49.45	14.40
33 x 4	53.20	13.30	880 x 120	66.90	17.15
34 x 4	54.40	14.00			

Subject to change without notice.

Confidential Discount for quantities upon application.

ANDERSEN, MEYER & CO., LTD.

HONGKONG:
QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.
TEL. 1930 & 1931.



CANTON:
MINISTERS BUILDING.
TEL. 3197.

EXTRADITION

PROCEEDINGS.

ALLEGED ROBBER CHIEF
ARRESTED.

Before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Magistracy this morning, Mr. Leo Longinotto, Assistant Crown Solicitor, made application for the extradition of an alleged robber chief who was wanted by the Canton authorities for robberies and murder.

The fugitive is said to be the leader of a gang of robbers who are the terror of the Puk Lo district and the neighbouring villages, robbing, wounding and kidnapping.

The occasion of the last robbery in which this much dreaded gang was concerned was on the 3rd day of the 6th moon of the eighth year of the Republic of China (June, 30, 1919). The robbers entered Puk Lo at night and attacked the house of a well-to-do villager and ransacked the place and stole over \$500 worth of jewellery and clothing. They gagged most of the inmates of the house and bound them up. The master of the house who was the only person who offered any resistance, was stabbed to the heart.

Evidence was being taken, and died. The robbers then good their escape. The fugitive said to have been with them. As a disinfectant salt water is equalled and for fighting fire w streets are too narrow for a engine to traverse this installa has been the means of saving much property.

MACAO GOING AHEAD

The 5th Section of Salt Water Canalization contract has been awarded to Messrs C. E. Warren & Co. Ltd. Contract price \$56,900. This firm has done the whole of four sections and is one of most successful installations in world for sanitary and fire purposes. As a disinfectant salt water is equalled and for fighting fire w streets are too narrow for a engine to traverse this installa has been the means of saving much property.

Evidence was being taken, and died. The robbers then good their escape. The fugitive said to have been with them. As a disinfectant salt water is equalled and for fighting fire w streets are too narrow for a engine to traverse this installa has been the means of saving much property.

SILVER RESERVE FUND.

	DOLLARS.	DOLLARS.
By Balance 31st Dec. 1919		\$ 21,000,000.00
By Transfer from Profit & Loss Account		2,000,000.00
To Balance	\$ 23,000,000.00	\$ 23,000,000.00

N. J. STABB, Chief Manager;
R. P. THURSFIELD, for Chief Accountant.

J. A. PLUMMER,
E. V. D. PARR,
JOHN JOHNSTONE.

We have compared the above statement with the books, and securities at the head office, and with the returns from the branches and agencies, and have found the same to be correct. With the exception of certain distant offices where the year is on 31st October or 30th November, all branch and agency accounts made up to 31st December.

F. MAITLAND,
E. A. M. WILLIAMS, A.S.A.A.

HONGKONG, 17th February, 1920.

